

## Torch Lighting Ceremony kicks off Special Olympics 2005 State Summer Games



*Special Olympians were joined by law enforcement officers for the lighting of the Flame of Hope on the Capitol steps.*

MDOC Director Patricia L. Caruso responds to the *Detroit News* series on prison abuse--Page 3

More than 100 Special Olympians and their supporters were joined by State Troopers, Sheriff's Deputies and Corrections Officers and Staff for the kick off to the second largest Special Olympics Summer Games in the world.

*continued*

*F.Y.J.* is a publication of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Office of Public Information and Communications. Editor Gail Madziar.

## Special Olympics summer games kick off

*continued from page 1*



*Ken Hines (carrying torch) was chosen to light the Flame of Hope, the ceremony's highest honor, because of his dedication and good*

"You'll see us doing many things from sitting on doughnut shops to running in the torch run and we're proud to participate with each and every one of you."

The State Police also raised \$40,000 last year and have been involved with Special Olympics for nearly 25 years. During last September's torch run, the 89 recruits from the Michigan State Police Academy joined the run as it passed through the Capitol grounds. The recruits showed up at midnight and ran the five miles down Michigan Avenue from the Capitol as a show of support for the LETR.

The 2005 Special Olympics Michigan State Summer Games ran June 2 to June 4 on the campus of Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant. Nearly 3,000 athletes from across the state competed in 10 sports: Athletics, Aquatics, Bocce, Bowling, Gymnastics, Horseshoes, MATP, Power Lifting, Team Handball, Volleyball, and Weightlifting.

Special Olympics Michigan (SOMI) provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Athletes build physical fitness, develop self-confidence, and prepare for participation in society. SOMI is a non-profit organization supported entirely by private funding and without support of state or federal funds. Visit SOMI online at [www.somi.org](http://www.somi.org). *fyj*

The group gathered on the Capitol steps in Lansing as Ken Hines, MDOC Parole/Probation Manager in Wayne County, lit the Flame of Hope which is the official start of the summer game ceremonies.

Members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) then took over and ran the torch non-stop to the opening ceremonies in Mt. Pleasant.

Michael J. Marutiak, department manager, Special Alternative Incarceration program, is this year's director of the LETR, a group of police officers and corrections personnel committed to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics Michigan.

"The finest officers in the country from 85 agencies and departments are involved in the law enforcement torch run," said Marutiak. "Last year the Department of Corrections raised \$40,000 for Special Olympics."

Norma Killough, Correctional Facilities Administration, addressed the athletes in the audience.



## Director Caruso speaks out on the *Detroit News* series on alleged abuse

Recently the *Detroit News* ran a series of articles regarding abuse of female inmates that is occurring in our state prisons. Rather than include the significant and current information that was presented to them by the department during hours of in-depth interviews with staff, they chose to focus on situations that happened nearly a decade ago. As a result, the series contained more inaccuracies than fact.

As you well know, the department has instituted new training and screening procedures for officers and staff working with female inmates. The series neglected to mention that information. The story also listed several reforms contained in the 1999 federal lawsuit as not implemented. Again, not true.

As a result of this series, Director Patricia L. Caruso was called upon to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Corrections and the House Judiciary Committee.

In her testimony the Director vilified the series stating that it contained “inaccuracies, misrepresentations and outright untruths.”

Director Caruso took issue with the timelines of the accusations. Many of the reports were old and had been effectively dealt with years ago. Reporters also treated every story told by an ex-offender as fact.

“They took the word of convicted felons at face value,” said Director Caruso.

She also took issue with the newspaper’s continued reference to officers as guards rather than corrections officers.

“You might think that’s a small issue,” said Director Caruso. “We do not.”

Director Caruso also pointed out that the experts used in the articles are paid professional witnesses for plaintiffs in litigation pending against the state.

Director Caruso summed up her response to the article by pointing out that the reputation of all corrections officers should not be diminished by the acts of a few.

“It is shameful that a handful of people that once worked for the department acted improperly but it is wrong to cloud the work of the thousands of dedicated corrections professionals.”

*On the following page is a copy of the letter sent to the editor of the Detroit News.*

### A message from Director Caruso to MDOC staff:

“I am grateful for the privilege to work with you. You are the dedicated corrections professionals who are doing your jobs on front lines day in and day out. It is your integrity and professionalism that keep our communities safe and our prisons secure.

You have a difficult job which has been made even tougher recently by the media’s misrepresentation of our efforts and their focus on a few bad employees from the past. We are making a concerted effort to correct the inaccuracies that were recently published.

The Michigan Department of Corrections is considered a leader throughout this country in both its training procedures and its policies. That reputation is possible only through the commitment and efforts of the honorable men and women who work here.”

—Director Patricia L. Caruso



# Letter to the editor of the *Detroit News*

Dear Editor

I am writing in response to the recent Detroit News series depicting sexual abuse in the Michigan prison system.

Your series harbored many inaccuracies and the headlines were misleading by failing to emphasize that the vast majority of these problems occurred many years ago. For you to report on incidents that took place in the past and give readers the impression they are still occurring at the same intensity is deceptive and irresponsible.

The Michigan Department of Corrections in no way tolerates or condones any form of abuse or harassment of prisoners, whether it's sexual misconduct or any other form of mistreatment. We run a safe and secure prison system, not only for women prisoners, but for all of our 49,000 prisoners.

Since some sexual abuse problems were first brought to light nearly a decade ago, the Department has instituted new policies, procedures and screening criteria for positions involving contact with female prisoners as well as additional training for all employees working in female facilities. As a result, the number of sustained sexual misconduct allegations since 2000 has dropped 92 percent.

The series pointed out that a major problem in female prisons today is the presence of male corrections officers in female housing units. We couldn't agree more. We have been in the forefront on this issue and in the late 1990s began the process of removing male officers from female housing units. However, our efforts were stalled due to litigation. The legal remedies of the plaintiffs are almost exhausted, and as we await possible consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court, we are making plans to move forward with this change.

The matter of removing men from female housing units is the only issue not yet implemented from a 1999 federal lawsuit settlement agreement. Your series indicated that 6 of the 11 reforms contained in this settlement agreement were either not implemented or partially implemented by the Department. This is absolutely not true and contradicts the final report of the federal court monitor.

In addition, the series highlighted 31 "prison guards convicted of criminal conduct involving female inmates." To be accurate, not all of these employees worked as corrections officers, however all have been dismissed for inappropriate behavior. Of these 31 former employees, 29 were either fired or left their employment with the Department before 2000. The story gave the impression that they were still working in our system.

Journalists play a very important role in our society by keeping citizens informed. As a citizen, I don't believe there's any room in professional journalism for sensationalism, distortion or misrepresentation. I expect news coverage to be fair and objective. Unfortunately, your recent series on our prisons was neither.

Patricia L. Caruso, Director  
Michigan Department of Corrections

## Michigan State Industries holds open house July 13 and 14

Michigan State Industries (MSI) is holding its fourth annual open house on Wednesday and Thursday, July 13 and 14, 2005. All department staff and customers are invited to stop by to see the new furniture styles and panel systems being produced by MSI.

Visitors will have an opportunity to meet MSI staff, tour the showroom and see the latest in wood furniture, ergonomic-style seating, signs, clothing and manufactured products.

A continental breakfast will be offered starting at 8:30 a.m. A grilled assortment of food items produced by the MSI factories will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

RSVP on or before July 8 by calling the open house hotline number at 517-241-5400 or e-mail [msisales@michigan.gov](mailto:msisales@michigan.gov).

MSI sells their products to governmental entities and 501(c)3 nonprofit organizations. *F.Y.I.*



## Deputy Director appointed to council

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm recently reappointed Deputy Director Barry McLemore, Administration and Programs Administration, to the Correctional Officers' Training Council. He is reappointed to represent the Michigan Department of Corrections for a term expiring March 30, 2008.

The Correctional Officers' Training Council establishes standards and requirements regarding the training and education of state and local correctional officers. *F.Y.I.*

## E-learning contest ends June 10

The spring e-learning contest ends on June 10. Finish up your courses and submit your name today. If you complete any of the new courses with a passing score of 70 percent or better, you can enter into a drawing to receive one of three grand prizes that will be awarded.

To participate:

1. Successfully complete one of the new Knowledgenet courses.
2. Send an e-mail to MDOC-DTA-DISTANCE. Please indicate e-learning promotion in the subject line of your e-mail and include your name, your work site and the name of the course you completed. *F.Y.I.*

## Attention Habitat volunteers

If you plan to volunteer for Habitat for Humanity this summer, please consider taking a few photos to submit to *F.Y.I.* We would like to feature as many Habitat teams as possible. You may e-mail your digital photos to [madziagl@michigan.gov](mailto:madziagl@michigan.gov) or send your commercially printed, hard copy photos via ID mail to Central Office, Grandview Plaza or postal mail to the Public Information Office, P.O. Box 30003, Lansing, 48909, Attn: Gail Madziar.

## Mound Correctional Facility Employees host a baby shower for deserving moms



For the second year in a row the Mound Correctional Facility's Gift Giving Committee raised funds and baby items for low-income pregnant mothers.

The mothers-to-be participate in a government-funded program called "Healthy Start." The program is designed to assist the pregnant mothers in delivering healthy babies and decreasing the number of low-weight babies being delivered. It also provides baby beds to help lower the number of infant mortalities due to suffocation. The staff at Mound Correctional Facility donated seven baby beds, four bassinets, one car seat and seven strollers. *F.Y.I.*

*At left: C/O L. Joe, Lt. C. Ray, C/O A. Hood and C/O C. Green are part of the NRF Gift Giving Committee.*

## C/O Andy Wolford assists victims



C/O Andy Wolford of the St. Louis Correctional Facility recently assisted at an automobile accident involving two vehicles and seven victims. One vehicle was severely damaged with a young girl critically injured and a teenage girl who had perished in the accident. The other vehicle had five injured persons, ranging in ages from 4 to 50.

Chief Victor Weigold of the Marion Township Fire Department notified former Warden Paul Renico of C/O Wolford's courageous actions.

"We deal with accident scenes frequently and often have people stop but most of the time they are more of a hindrance than a helping hand, they just want to see what's going on," said Chief Weigold. "Mr. Wolford was a tremendous asset that day and went well above what you would consider the normal help a fellow human would give at a time of need. He showed a great deal of compassion and understanding to the victims as well as the firefighters on the scene. I thank Mr. Wolford for his acts of

kindness and consideration that day on the scene."

The fire department invited C/O Wolford to a meeting of the Saginaw County Fire Association and honored him with a Certificate of Appreciation. Deputy Steve Rivard and MCO President Ray Sholtz were among those attending the presentation.

"C/O Wolford is an exceptional person. We are proud to have officers like him at our facility," said St. Louis Correctional Facility Warden Blaine Lafler. *F.Y.I.*



## 2005 Corrections Officer class attends graduation ceremony



*Former Director Bill Martin reminded recruits of the department's mission.*

Director Patricia L. Caruso who stressed safety and attentiveness on the job. She challenged the officers to perform their duties with professionalism and integrity.

That sentiment was echoed by Officer of the Year Ken Hatfield.

"It's important to remember who you are and what you represent," said Investigator Hatfield. *J.Y.J.*

Recruits in the Director Bill Martin Training Class attended graduation ceremonies May 20 at the Hill Vocational Center in Lansing. The 153 new officers will work at facilities across the state.

Former Director Martin addressed his namesake class reminding the recruits that their mission is to protect the public, staff and prisoners. He also emphasized the importance of the job they will be doing.

"You will make a difference in someone's life every single day," said Martin.

The recruits were also welcomed into the department by



## Central Office holds blood drive



*On May 6, 33 people showed up at the Central Office Blood Drive. The Red Cross received 29 productive pints of blood. Sue Mulford, (pictured above) Central Office Personnel, was first in line to donate.*

## Web site assists soldiers' families

Governor Jennifer M. Granholm recently announced the launch of a new Web site created to assist families of Michigan soldiers serving overseas. Project Blue Star is a program designed to identify and catalogue community-based services available to military families in one convenient, online location.

When a service member is called to active duty, families are often left with concerns about completing a variety of day-to-day household tasks. Project Blue Star easily connects organizations providing services with the families who need them.

The Web site lists organizations offering services from mortgage assistance to mowing lawns. Military families can visit the site, search for organizations offering services they are looking for near their home, and make contact directly.

Organizations already registered on Project Blue Star's Web site include the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way, and Volunteer Centers of Michigan.

Organizations wishing to post their services, and families looking for assistance, can visit the Web site at [www.michigan.gov/bluestar](http://www.michigan.gov/bluestar). *J.Y.J.*

## Swine Ride is Saturday, June 25



This year's Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) Swine Ride is Saturday, June 25. The Swine Ride is an opportunity for motorcycle-riding enthusiasts to raise funds for the Special Olympics program. The event is scheduled to begin at four separate locations across the state of Michigan and the ride will be escorted by law enforcement officials.

Start locations include Big Rapids, Grand Rapids, Saginaw and Lansing. All rides converge into East Lansing for the food and entertainment after-ride festivities. Minimum contribution is \$50 for single rider and \$60 for double rider. Dinner and entertainment only is \$20 per person.

You can register online at <http://www.somi.org/events/special/swineride> by June 17. Or you may call (800) 644-6404 for more information.

The Swine Ride is coordinated by the LETR, a group of police officers and corrections personnel committed to raising funds and awareness for Special Olympics Michigan. Proceeds from the Swine Ride support the year-round sports training and athletic competition for the approximately 12,400 children and adults who participate in Special Olympics Michigan. *F.Y.I.*

## West Shoreline holds flag raising ceremony to honor POW/MIA

On April 22, the West Shoreline Correctional Facility held a POW/MIA flag raising ceremony to pay tribute, honor and respect to all prisoners of war and those missing in action.

At 12:00 p.m. all flags were replaced on the facility's flagpole. The new U.S. flag had been flown over the Capitol in Washington D.C. and was donated by U.S.



*Attending the ceremony were (from left:) Kim Schaub, food service director; Kathy Jeffery, secretary; Warden Mary Berghuis; Deputy Warden Mike Singleton; ADW Sharon Wells and two members of Rolling Thunder Motorcycle Club.*

Representative Peter Hoekstra. The Michigan flag, flown over the Capitol in Lansing, was donated by state Representative Dave Farhat. The POW/MIA flag was donated by Dave Eling, director of the West Michigan Veterans' Service Center in Muskegon.



*C/O Tom Hoffman (left)*

The POW/MIA flag was presented to Corrections Officer Tom Hoffman, West Shoreline Correctional Facility, by the president of Rolling Thunder, a motorcycle group comprised of veterans. The flags were raised by the Don Rea V.F.W. Post #8846 Honor Guard and Officer Tom Hoffman. The Muskegon Police pipe and drum corps joined the ceremony which included the reading of the POW and MIA prayers. *F.Y.I.*